Action-plan for improvement in Railways

3787. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased as state:

(a) whether the Railways needs commitment of time and an improvement in its system of safe delivery of goods to compete with the Roadways for transportation of goods;

(b) if so, reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any action plan for above mentioned improvement in Railways; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Railways have taken steps to give timely and safe transport service to the goods booked by its customers. These measures include: (i) running of point to point rakes eliminating handling and detentions enroute; (ii) providing door to door containerised transport service through Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR)—a PSU of Railways, (iii) running of fixed schedule "CONTRACK" trains through CONCOR, (iv) introduction of modern wagons by CONCOR for faster transportation of international traffic, (v) offering value added service like leased space in brake/ parcel vans for guaranteed and safe clearance of parcel traffic.

Low performance level of Indian Railways

3788. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased as state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in China, where transport demand is more or less of the same pattern as in India, the passenger traffic is like that of India;

(b) whether Chinese Railways carry about 1800 BTKM of freight but Indian Railways carry only about 300 BTKM; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for such low performance in Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Indian Railways and Chinese Railways operate under substantially different political and economic systems. Hence a direct

comparison of these systems is not valid. Indian Railways do not have any definite data regarding Chinese Railways.

Progress on Chandigarh—Ludhiana Rail Line

3789. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased as state whether any progress has been made on Chandigarh—Ludhiana, via Morinda, rail line for which the Railways Minister had laid stone at the time of inauguration, at Mohali last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The progress is as follows:

(i) Rs. 3.5 crore have been deposited with the State Govt. of Punjab for acquisition of land. Part of land required for the project is expected to be available by Sept. 2000.

(ii) Rs. 1.15 crore has also been deposited with Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh for acquisition of land. The land is expected to be available by June, 2000, after removal of encroachments.

(iii) The Geotechincal investigations, preparation of drawings and calling of tenders are in progress.

The work will start after the land is handed over to the Railways by the concerned authorities.

Bankura-Beliatore Gauge Conversion Project

3790. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1825 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th December, 1999 and to state:

(a) whether the first phase of work on the gauge conversion project from Bankura to Beliatore (20 km.), part estimate for which had been received and was under process in the Railway Board for sanction, has since been finalised;

(b) if so, what is the status of the work; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when it is expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The part-Detailed Estimate for the first phase of work on the Bankura Damodar River (BDR) Railway Gauge Conversion